

# City Moves to Condemn 30-Acre Civic Center Site

## POISON GAS FORCES FAMILY TO EVACUATE; PLANT CLOSED

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# Injured Boy Enters Second Day in Coma

## Gas Said Threat to City Water Supply

Closing down of the chlorine-packaging facilities of the John Wiley Jones Co. of 1904 Border Ave. was ordered by the City Council here Tuesday night when the Councilmen voted unanimously to revoke the company's business license.

Leading off in the battle to close the plant was Mrs. Fred A. Lincoln Sr., who complained of the situation arising when gases escape from the plant.

Her argument was backed up by Fire Chief J. J. Benner, who said he had to evacuate the Lincolns from their home at 1823 Border Ave., across from the plant, last week when chlorine gas escaped from the company's operation.

Councilman Victor E. Benstead said he had visited the area and had noticed that the vegetation in the area was badly burned.

Family Evacuated  
City Manager George Stevens summarized a report compiled by the city in which it was confirmed that the Lincoln family had to be evacuated on Nov. 4, 1953 by the fire department.

A report from the city's plumbing inspector indicated that serious cross connections within the plant threatened the city's water supply, and City Land Use Investigator George Powell reported that the escaping of gases from the plant had occurred at times previous to the Nov. 4 date.

Mrs. Arthur Klein, who said she was the former office manager of the firm, told the councilmen that her husband was the former plant manager of the John Wiley Jones Co.

"We are ex-employees of the firm as of yesterday," she said. Mrs. Klein told the Council that her husband had just been released from the hospital after undergoing treatment for injuries received when he was exposed to some of the chlorine gas.

Plant Closed  
The motion to close the plant came from Councilman Willys G. Blount, who moved to inform the company that its business license was being revoked.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Council Orders Civic Center Site Condemned

A move to acquire about 30 acres of land northeast of Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave. for a future civic center site through condemnation proceedings was ordered by the City Council here Tuesday evening.

The land, presently owned by the Chanslor Canfield-Midway Oil Co., has long been eyed by city officials as a site for development of a new civic center.

City Attorney James Hall was instructed by the Council to bring action in Superior Court to condemn the site.

Basis for the action contained in the enabling resolution of the Council stated that the present City Hall was inadequate, and that the ground surrounding the present civic center was not of sufficient size to enable an expansion of facilities here.

The area involved lies south of an extension of Maricopa St. and north of Torrance Blvd. between Madrona and Maple Aves. Besides the construction of a new City Hall, present plans call for consolidation of many of the city's functions in the area. Included in this would be the street bus maintenance, and other departments. Already established nearby is a 15-acre cut and cover city dump.



MOTHER COMFORTS INJURED CHILD . . . Mary Lynn Maxwell, 10, who was injured when a bicycle she was riding collided with an auto, is comforted in the ambulance by her mother. (Herald photo.)

## Girls Riding Bicycle Hurt

Two young Shoestring Strip girls were seriously injured here Monday evening when a bicycle they were riding collided with an auto driven by a Gardena policeman at 218th St. and Hall-dale Ave.

Mary Lynn Maxwell, 10, of 21815 Halldale Ave., was riding a bicycle and carrying Jacqueline Motley, 9, of 1410 1/2 W. 218th St. on the handlebars when the accident occurred.

The Maxwell girl received possible internal injuries, concussion, cuts and bruises and was reported in serious condition at Harbor General Hospital.

## Alums To Return For Homecoming

Alumni of Torrance High School will return tomorrow night for the annual Homecoming celebration, to be held in conjunction with the Leuzinger football game at Tartar Field.

Following the game, a dance will be held at the Civic Auditorium to honor the classes of '50, '51, '52, and the Senior Class of '53. All other alumni are also urged to attend.

Homecoming Queen Doralee Chaffin and her court, Sandra Constance, Connie Erickson, Pat Fenton and Norma Quine will reign over the game and the dance.

## Boy, 6, Struck By Car; Still Unconscious

Still unconscious yesterday at Harbor General Hospital was a six-year-old Jay Crew, of 4908 Sepulveda, who was struck by a car Tuesday morning in front of the Attebery Ranch, 4166 Sepulveda.

The child received a fractured skull, multiple bruises and abrasions when hit by a car driven by Ann Roger Kooztz, 26, of Manhattan Beach, at 8:50 a.m.

The Kooztz car was traveling east on Sepulveda when the accident occurred. The driver was cited for failure to wear glasses under the provisions of a restricted license; and for operating a vehicle which was in an unsafe condition.

## Council Agrees To Dominguez Water Contract

The right to serve water to a huge new tract west of Hawthorne Ave. between Del Amo and 190th St. was awarded to the Dominguez Water Service by a split decision of the City Council here Tuesday evening.

Holding out for service to the area by the Torrance Municipal Water District were Councilmen Harvey B. Spelman Jr. and Willys G. Blount. Voting to hand the water rights to Dominguez for the next 10 years were Councilmen Nicholas O. Drale, Victor E. Benstead, and Mayor Merwin M. Schwab.

The area in question is being developed by Milton Kauffman as a huge residential area. Kauffman plans to construct about 2400 homes in the area during the next two years.

With the signing of the 10-year agreement, the city agreed to let Dominguez furnish the water to the area with the provision that all the water mains and facilities there become city property, at the end of the agreement and at no cost to the city.

Mayor Schwab, who swung the decision with his vote to approve the contract, said it was his belief that the city "had nothing to lose by the agreement."

Councilman Blount protested the action on the grounds that there was a profit in handling such water service and that the city should have it, and he protested on behalf of the future residents of the area by saying that Dominguez rates are higher and that they were entitled to the city's lower rate.

In a short letter to the Council requesting its approval of the agreement, Don Wilson, vice-president of the Kauffman firm, said the developer planned to start construction on the first of 385 homes by the first of December.



EDITORIAL CHANGE . . . Reid L. Bundy (left), now editor of the Torrance Herald, chats with former editor, Jack O. Baldwin, about the operation of the Herald's Scan-A-Graver. The former editor will become a sales engineer in Oregon for the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp., manufacturers of the photo-electric engraving machine. (Herald photo.)

## Bundy Named Herald Editor

## Baldwin Accepts Oregon Sales Engineer Position

Appointment of Reid L. Bundy to succeed Jack O. Baldwin as editor of the Torrance Herald was announced yesterday by Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, publisher.

Baldwin, who joined the Herald staff six years ago as city and sports editor, tendered his resignation this week to accept the position of sales engineer for the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp. The former managing editor will sell and instruct newspaper staffs in the operation of the Fairchild Scan-A-Graver, a machine used to produce engravings from which newspaper pictures and advertising illustrations are printed.

He will move to Portland, Ore., and from there will represent the Fairchild Corp. in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, the west coast of Canada, and Alaska.

Bundy came to the Herald nearly four years ago joining the editorial staff as city editor and sports editor. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California where he served as managing editor of the Daily Trojan. He is past president of Sigma Delta Phi, national journalism fraternity. He completed his journalistic training after serving as personnel officer during World War II in Italy, Sicily, and Africa. He, his wife Billie, and two children Susan and Christine, live at 1121 Patronella Ave.

Baldwin will tender his resignation this week as a member of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce of which he is a charter member. His wife, Gloria, is the current president of the Jay-Cettes, the Junior Chamber auxiliary. Mary, she likewise will tender his resignation before the Baldwin move from their present home at 28114 Palena Ave. to Portland. Three of the Baldwin's children, Donnie, Danie, and Shelley attend Torrance Elementary School. A third son, Tim, is a sophomore at Torrance High School.

As a representative for the Fairchild Corp., Baldwin will be assigned to one of the four West Coast areas in which the photo-electric engraving machine is used by more than 40 newspapers. The Torrance Herald in 1949 was one of the first newspapers in the state to install a Scan-A-Graver, a machine which makes use of electrical, mechanical, and chemical means to produce engravings on plastic.

As a pilot of a B-24 during World War II Baldwin served as a captain in the Marine A-1 Corps flying high altitude photographic missions in the South Pacific in airplanes equipped with huge aerial cameras which are also made by the Fairchild Corp. Previous to his wartime service Baldwin attended St. A. TEAC officers serve one year terms.

## TEAC Elects New Officers

Dale Isenberg, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, was elected Moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee at a TEAC meeting held Monday at the YWCA.

Mrs. A. C. Turner was re-elected Alternate Moderator, and Stan Roberts, executive secretary of the local YMCA, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Outgoing officers were Dr. Howard Wood, moderator, and Isenberg was formerly secretary-treasurer.

The new officers will assume their duties at the next meeting of the group, which is slated to be held on the second Monday of next month—Dec. 14. Jose State College where he majored in photo-journalism.

## Civil Air Patrol Here Gets New Rescue Plane

An L-16 search and rescue plane has been loaned by the U. S. Air Force to the Civil Air Patrol Squadron stationed at Torrance Municipal Airport, it has been announced by Lt. M. C. Altman, operations officer at the field.

## Local Schools Not Conducting Survey Here

A telephone survey being made by persons claiming to represent the Independent Research Survey is not being sponsored by the Torrance Unified School District, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent, said yesterday.

A number of citizens after receiving a telephone call during which the caller sought to obtain information about pre-school aged children have asked the district officials here for an explanation.

"We are conducting no survey," stated Dr. Hull. "We will wait until December when the results of the special census will be known to obtain the information we desire." The school official referred to the special census now being conducted throughout the city.

Residents have been advised to answer the questions in any manner they deem advisable.

## Fluorination Of City Water To be Studied

The pros and cons of fluorination of city water is to be studied by a committee of Chamber of Commerce directors appointed Monday afternoon by R. I. Plomert Jr., president of the Chamber.

A number of cities have recently instigated fluorination programs as a means of combating tooth decay. Recent medical surveys and studies have shown that when fluoride is added to drinking water even in minute quantities the number of cases of tooth decay is decreased considerably.

The suggestion that the Chamber undertake the study was made by Dean L. Sears, chairman of the Torrance Dental Health Clinic. The committee's main function would be to educate the community as to the advantages of adding the chemical to the city's water supply.

An Diego recently adopted a fluorination program and will be one of the cities to be studied by the local committee. Heading the committee is Fay L. Parks as chairman. Serving with him are J. H. Paget and Dr. Gerald Eastham.

The committee was asked to report on its findings at the next meeting of the Chamber.



GUTTED . . . Torrance firemen work to extinguish a fire which gutted the inside of a house at 615 Sartori Saturday afternoon. The fire apparently started from a cigarette smoldering in a couch while the occupant, Mrs. Q. T. McGee, was away. When she came back, the inside of the house was bursting with smoke and flames. The house is rented by Mr. and Mrs. McGee. Owner is Frank W. Dishop. The McGees reportedly have no insurance on their furniture, which was destroyed by the fire.

## WEATHER

No rain is expected today or tomorrow by the weather bureau, but a rainy week-end is forecast. Otherwise, today will be cooler, with a high temperature of near 68 degrees. Variable high cloudiness is expected.



DALE ISENBERG Elected TEAC Moderator